such as increase in intake of the existing IITs and upgradation of Regional Engineering Colleges and other premier institutions to IITs are being considered. Government has set up an Expert Committee to identify promising academic institutions to be upgraded to IITs. The Committee will look into the performance of the institutions in relation to their infrastructure, management structure, quality of students and faculty, the research output etc. The Government will take necessary action on submission of recommendations by the Expert Committee.

Use of aluminium and steel in coaches

*162. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of steel that is roughly required by the Indian Railways annually;

(b) the quantum of aluminium used in coaches and wagons by the Indian Railways;

(c) whether the Government are thinking of using aluminium to manufacture coaches and wagons for the Indian Railways; and

(d) if not, the reasons for not using aluminium in the manufacturing for coaches and wagons?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Annual requirement of steel for track procurement and the manufacture of coaches and wagons is 9,60,000 Metric Tonnes.

(b) The quantum of aluminium used is approximately 440 Kilograms for non-air conditioned coaches and about 1800 to 2000 Kilograms for air-conditioned coaches. There is a negligible use of aluminium in wagon manufacture.

(c) and (d) At present, there is no proposal to manufacture aluminium bodied coaches. However, order for manufacture of one prototype aluminium bodied wagon has been placed.